For the information of the House I may say that cases against 375 persons have been registered for profiteering and cognate offences. I may also say that a considerable number of persons are now in jail for offences in respect of profiteering.

84. Mr. V. N. Damodaran Nambiar *(Trippunittura)*: Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) whether they have received any complaints that the wholesale importers of rice in the State are refusing to sell rice to any of the retail merchants for the price fixed by the Government;

(*b*) if so, what action have they taken in the matter?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*:

(*a*) General complaints without reference to specific instances have been received. A few have been received quoting specific instances.

(*b*) No action could be taken in cases of general complaints. Some cases in which specific instances were given, were investigated and drastic action taken. The others are under investigation. Interim action of severe nature has been taken consistent with the gravity of the complaints.

TAPIOCA—CONTROL OF EXPORT, ETC., BY THE TRAVANCORE GOVERNMENT

85. മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ : താഴെ പറയുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്ക ഗവമ്മെണ്ട ദയവായി മറുപടി പറയുമോ.—

(എ) കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങ് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽനിന്ന പുറത്തേക്കയയ്ക്കുന്നതിനേയും മറ്റും സംബന്ധിച്ച് ഈ അടുത്ത അവസരത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടായ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ നിരോധനാജ്ഞ ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ;

(ബി) അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ച് കൊച്ചിയിലെ എല്ലാ ദിനപത്രങ്ങളിലും പരസ്യംചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള ലേഖനം ഗവമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ;

(സി) ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ കൊള്ളിക്കിഴങ്ങിന്റെ കയ്ത്തിൽ കൊച്ചി ഗവമ്മെണ്ട് വല്ല നിയന്ത്രണമോ, കയറ്റുമതി ചെയ്യുന്നതിൽ നിരോധനമോ ചെയ്യാൻ ഗവമ്മെണ്ട് ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എം. പോൾ : (എ) ഉണ്ട്.

(ബി) ചിലതെല്ലാം ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ട്.

(സി) നിയന്ത്രണവും നിരോധനവും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

LICENSE FOR SALE OF RICE—REFUSAL OF

86. മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻ : താഴെ പറയുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്ക ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട ഗവമ്മെണ്ട് സദയം മറുപടി പറയുമോ.—

(എ) ഇക്കൊല്ലം പുതുതായി അരിവില്പനക്ക് ലൈസൻസ് അനുവദിക്കാതിരുന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ;

(ബി) ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ കാരണം എന്ത്;

(സി) ഫ്രീ ഉലാമാസത്തിൽ പുതിയതായി ലൈസൻസ് അനുവദിച്ചത് എന്ത് നിശ്ചയത്തിന്മേലാണ്?

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എം. പോൾ : (എ) ഉണ്ട്.

(ബി) ലൈസൻസിന് അർഹരല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ട്.

(സി) അർഹതയുള്ളവർക്ക് ലൈസൻസ് അനുവദിച്ചു.

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻ : എന്തെല്ലാം അർഹതകളാണ് പുതിയ ലൈസൻസിന് ആവശ്യമുള്ളത്?

മിസ്റ്റർ എം. എം. പോൾ : ബ്രിട്ടീഷിലെ നിയമമനുസരിച്ചാണ് ഇവിടെയും ലൈസൻസു കൊടുത്തുവരുന്നത്. അവിടെ ലൈസൻസു കൊടുക്കുന്നതിനു ചില കണ്ടീഷൻസെ

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ല്ലാമുണ്ട്. ആ കണ്ടീഷൻസ് അനുസരിച്ചാണ് മുമ്പിലത്തെ സിവിൽ സപ്ലൈ കമ്മിഷണർ ലൈസൻസുകൾ കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. അതുപ്രകാരമേ ഇപ്പോഴും കൊടുക്കുന്നുള്ളൂ.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: On the decision of the Government to introduce rationing, were not the licences then existing cancelled by the Government. Was there not a publication in the Gazette that the existing licences stand cancelled?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: Rationing scheme is intended only for retail business and licences have not been cancelled.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know among the present licensees how many new persons who have not been in the trade are existing?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: I want notice.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know how many persons who have not been sellers of rice before have been granted licences?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: I want notice.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: I shall give the information. Certain co-operative societies which were not trading before, applied for licences and we thought it would be better in the interests of proper distribution of rice among the poor people to grant them licences.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri)*: Can the Treasury Bench assure the House that the cancellation of the licences published in the Gazette refers only to retail dealers?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar)*: I don't think there has been any cancellation of licenses. Persons have been given permits to purchase paddy. Those permits have been cancelled. Certain mill-owners and merchants were given permission to go and purchase paddy from the ryots so that it could be milled and converted into rice. Big mill-owners in Trichur had to be given such permits. Those permits have been cancelled. Because Government was going to purchase, individual purchases by merchants had to be stopped. To facilitate that, those permits were cancelled, licences are continued so long as they continue to trade.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur)*: Are all the old licensees given new licences according to the new rationing system?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: New licences are being prepared and all of them will be given.

FAIR PRICE SHOPS—EXPENDITURE FOR

87. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar** *(Nellayi)*: Will Government be pleased to state the total expenditure estimated for the conduct of the proposed fair price shops for one year?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: The total expenditure for one year will roughly be Rs. 90,000.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: What is the number of fair price shops to be opened in the whole State.

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: 100. But now we have 106.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: One shop in each Panchayat area. Was that not the proposal?

Mr. M. M. Paul *(Commissioner of Civil Supplies)*: That was the proposal. But more had to be opened.

Mr. President: Where the Panchayat area is particular, you may have two shops.

Mr. T.A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi)*: Do the Government think that this will be sufficient to supply the whole area?

Mr. President: The intention of the fair price shops is not to replace the retail shops. The original intention was, where retail shop-keepers were not able to supply rice or were not selling at proper prices, fair price shops will be established from where people can get rice readily and at proper prices and that will have an influence on the sale in retail shops. Now the position is changed on account of the introduction of rationing. The people got into the habit of going to fair price shops and so we are giving the public the option to continue to use these fair price shops or to use the ordinary retail shops of whom they were customers provided, they are respectable persons. If the rationing scheme works very successfully, it may be possible in course of time gradually to abolish most of the fair price shops and as in Britain and in many other countries where rationing is in force, to deal only through the ordinary private retailer.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know whether any census has been taken as to the number of retail shops that have been catering to the public.

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